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Win for store changing the world one pantry at a time

- Awards recognise the State's best at avoiding waste and increasing recycling

A waste-free grocery store in Mundaring has taken out the top prize at this year's Infinity Awards.

The Wasteless Pantry has been named as the State's Waste Champion for its commitment to eliminating single use packaging and sourcing food locally and sustainably.

Everything in the store – from soy sauce to quinoa, detergent to nutmeg – is available to purchase in customers' own containers. The store also stocks a comprehensive range of eco-friendly, reusable containers and packaging, enabling the community to ditch plastic disposables for good.

As a result of these sustainable practices, the business produces just a fraction of the amount of waste of an 'average' retail store. All food waste is composted onsite, and the store acts as a recycling point for aluminium single use coffee pods, batteries, ink cartridges, dental products and mobile phones.

Presented by Environment Minister Stephen Dawson, the Waste Authority's Infinity Awards recognise Western Australian schools, community groups, local governments, state government agencies and industry for their efforts to reduce waste, re-use and recycle.

This year's Infinity Awards category winners:

- Community – Northern Agricultural Catchments Council
- Waste Wise Schools – Esperance Farm Training Centre
- Local Government – City of Stirling
- Business – Soft Landing WA
- State Government – WA Police
- Waste Champion – Wasteless Pantry

2017 Infinity Awards winners

Waste Champion – Wasteless Pantry

The operators of the Mundaring-based Wasteless Pantry were inspired to establish the business after participating in a [Plastic Free July](#) event and embracing the challenge to eliminate single use items from their lives. The Wasteless Pantry sources food locally and sustainably with everything in the store available to purchase in customers' own containers.

Waste Wise Schools – Esperance Farm Training Centre

Students created planter boxes, benches and toy boxes by collecting and repurposing pallets left in industrial yards on the outskirts of town. The students showcased their products at Esperance's Festival of the Wind gardening workshop and gave away items to the community.

Business – Soft Landing WA

Since early 2016, [Soft Landing WA](#) has recycled 50,000 mattresses – recovering 600 tonnes of steel, 135 tonnes of foam, and 295 tonnes of wood, as well as saving 35,000 cubic metres of landfill space. Soft Landing WA employs 15 staff, with a focus on creating jobs and training for local people who have experienced barriers to gaining lasting employment.

Local government winner – City of Stirling

The City of Stirling was recognised for its work revitalising its tip shop, and running it in partnership with a social enterprise which employs 10 people with disabilities. Changes include polystyrene now being received at the site, as well as charity bins forming part of the drop-off recycling options at Balcatta. In addition, re-use of goods through the tip shop has increased by 66 per cent and 30 tonnes of materials a month are now sold through the shop compared with 10 tonnes a month in previous years.

Community winner – Northern Agricultural Catchments Council

The Northern Agricultural Catchment Council promoted the installation of plastic recycling bins around the City of Geraldton, which does not have kerbside recycling. The project also encouraged people to think about plastic waste in the environment, particularly the ocean. The installation of plastic recycling bins in public areas resulted in the diversion of one tonne of plastic waste a month.

State Government winner – WA Police

WA Police was recognised for its continued improvement in waste avoidance including recycling 2,670kg of plastic from 667,500 random breath test straws, and repurposing old uniforms which will be made into a wide range of items including quilts.

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